United Nations A/HRC/28/NGO/19

General Assembly

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Human Rights Council
Twenty-eighth session
Agenda item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by Amnesty International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[13 February 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.15-02880 (E)

1502880

Please recycle

Saudi Arabia: is this what is to be expected of a UN Human Rights Council member (Part 1)?

Saudi Arabia was elected as Council member in November 2013 and made some important pledges. It made additional ones during its Universal Periodic Review in 2014. However, with the exception of minor improvements in limited areas, the overall human rights situation over the country has deteriorated in the past two years. This statement focuses on violations of rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association.[1]

Amnesty International is extremely concerned that the Saudi Arabian authorities have not only shut down all independent human rights organizations and imprisoned the country's most prominent human rights activists; they have also harassed and intimidated activists and family members of victims of human rights violations to prevent them from contacting Amnesty International and other international organizations. We are aware of cases of executions where families were harassed and prevented from contacting Amnesty International about their four sons who were to be executed after an unfair trial, and we have also seen court documents in which the defendants were charged and sentenced to prison term for contact with a "foreign body" and Amnesty International was named as one body in some of those court documents.

Human Rights Defenders

Since early 2013, all of Saudi Arabia's prominent and independent human rights defenders (HRDs) have either been imprisoned, threatened into silence, or fled the country. Most of them had already been subjected to arbitrary travel bans, and had endured intimidation and harassment by security forces, particularly by the Ministry of Interior's General Directorate of Investigations, before being taken to courts and given harsh sentences. Many of them were sentenced after grossly unfair trials by the Specialized Criminal Court (SCC), which is a special security and counter-terrorism court whose jurisdiction and procedures are unspecified.

Among the HRDs who have been imprisoned are members of the Saudi Civil and Political Rights Association (ACPRA), such as former judge Sheikh Suliaman al-Rashudi, Dr Abdullah al-Hamid, Dr Mohammed al-Qahtani, Dr Abdulkareem al-Khodr, Mohammed al-Bajadi, Fowzan al-Harbi, Dr Abdulrahman al-Hamid, Saleh al-Ashwan and Omar al-Sa'id. Other HRDs who have been imprisoned are Waleed Abu al-Khair, founder and head of the independent Saudi Arabian Monitor for Human Rights and the first activist to be sentenced under the new counter-terrorism law, and Fadhel al-Manasif, co-founder of the Adala Center for Human Rights.
A number of other HRDs are either undergoing unfair trials or have been sentenced and await imprisonment. They include Abdulaziz al-Shubaily, Issa al-Hamid, and Mikhlif al-Shammari.

Women who supported the Women2Drive campaign, launched in 2011 to challenge the prohibition on women driving cars, faced harassment and intimidation by the authorities, and were threatened with arrest and detention. In early December 2014, Loujain al-Hathloul and Maysa al-Amoudi, two supporters of the campaign were arrested at the border with the United Arab Emirates for driving their cars. They were later charged with terrorism-related offences in connection with that incident and only released over 70 days later in vague circumstances.

Freedom of Expression

The Saudi Arabian authorities have put in place obstacles, both in law and practice, that have severely curtailed the right to free expression.

[1] A version of this statement published on the Amnesty International website includes footnotes and other information (AI Index: MDE 23/015/2015, available at http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE23/015/2015/en)

Numerous activists, including bloggers and online activists, have been punished simply for harmless comments that should be protected as free expression. A clear example is the case of Raif Badawi, an online activist who was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes in April 2014 for setting up a website and encouraging debate on social and political issues. Raif Badawi received the first 50 of his 1,000 lashes on 9 January 2015 and he is at risk of receiving the rest as long as he remains sentenced and imprisoned.

Amnesty International remains extremely concerned about the new anti-terrorism law, the "Law for the Crimes of Terrorism and its Financing", which took effect in February 2014 and has been used against peaceful activists. The law defines "terrorist crimes" in an overly broad and vague manner and in doing so criminalizes forms of peaceful expression as "terrorist crimes". It violates the international legal principle of legal certainty. Articles 1 and 3 of the law state that acts, including words, deemed by the authorities to be, directly or indirectly, "disturbing" public order, "destabilising the security of society or the stability of the state", "exposing its national unity to danger", advocating "revoking the basic law of government or any of its articles", or "harming the reputation of the state or its standing" are considered "terrorist crimes". Anyone, whether Saudi Arabian or a foreign national, whether inside the country or abroad, who is accused of such conduct could be prosecuted as a "terrorist" inside Saudi Arabia.

On 27 October 2014, the SCC sentenced three lawyers, Dr Abdulrahman al-Subaihi, Bander al-Nogaithan, and Abdulrahman al-Rumaih, to between five and eight years in prison and travel bans of seven to 10 years for criticizing the judiciary and the Justice Minister. The lawyers were also banned by the court for an unspecified period of time from talking to media outlets and from posting on social media.

Freedom of Association

Saudi Arabia is yet to pass a law of associations to determine the process to establish NGOs, such as human rights organizations, despite a draft law that was sent to the Cabinet for its approval in 2008. In the absence of such a law, human rights organizations have not been able to obtain legal recognition and their members can be, and have been, arrested and charged with "forming an unlicensed organization." Most HRDs mentioned above have been charged and sentenced for long prison terms partly on these grounds.

In 2013, the authorities forcibly closed down all existing independent human rights organizations mentioned above and ordered them to shut down their websites and online presence.
The decree promulgated by the Ministry of Interior in March 2014 extended the new counter-terrorism law's already overly broad definition of terrorism and criminalized the exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, such as organizing peaceful protests or forming human rights organizations. The decree added to the list of terrorist acts "calling for, participating, publicizing, or inciting protests, demonstrations, gatherings, or group petitions", "attending conferences, lectures, or gatherings inside or outside [the country] that target the security and stability of the country and incites strife in society", and "inciting states, or bodies, or international organizations against the Kingdom".

Freedom of Assembly

All forms of peaceful gathering and demonstrations in Saudi Arabia remain banned according to an announcement by the Ministry of Interior on 5 March 2011. Those who break the ban can be charged with "participating in or calling for demonstrations" and "disobeying the ruler" and face imprisonment.
In mid-November 2014, family members of Sheikh Suliaman al-Rashudi, including his wife and daughter, were put on trial in relation to their peaceful activism demanding his release. Media outlets in Saudi Arabia reported that Sheikh Suliaman al-Rashudi's wife has been accused of contacting Amnesty International to discuss the conditions of detention of the former judge and member of ACPRA. Similarly, Amnesty International has received information that family members of other political detainees have been forbidden to talk to media, and forced to close down their social media accounts.

The authorities have also arrested and detained many protestors in the country's Eastern Province since 2011. Most of those detained were released without charge or trial, but those charged were taken to the SCC, which in 2014 sentenced

at least five of them to death and over dozen others to harsh prison terms of up to 25 years. In relation to the protests in the Eastern Province, the SCC in October 2014, also sentenced prominent Shi'a Muslim cleric from Qatif, Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr, to death. In August 2014, it also sentenced another prominent Shi'a cleric, Sheikh Tawfiq al-'Amr to eight years in prison, to be followed by a 10-year travel ban and a ban on delivering religious sermons and public speeches.

Recommendations

- As a Council member Saudi Arabia is expected to uphold the highest human rights standards and yet the already poor human rights situation in the country has worsened in the past two years.

- Amnesty International urges the members and observers of the HRC to:

- raise the concerns in this statement in HRC debates and in bilateral dialogues with the Saudi Arabian delegation;

- demand that Saudi Arabia release all human rights defenders and other prisoners of conscience immediately and unconditionally and stop harassing and intimidating human rights activists;
- urge the Saudi Arabian authorities to allow local human rights organizations to operate freely and to allow international human rights organizations to visit the country to carry out human rights research;

- demand that Saudi Arabia uphold its international obligations, including its obligations as a Council member;

- call on Saudi Arabia to accept outstanding mission requests and agree dates for visits by UN Special Procedures, in particular the Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders, on freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and on freedom of opinion and expression, and the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, and to provide substantive and timely responses to all Special Procedures' urgent appeals and communications;[2] and

- urge full and prompt implementation of Council election pledges and accepted UPR recommendations and commitments and regular reporting to the HRC on such implementation.

[2] http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/CountryvisitsN-Z.aspx

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Human Rights Council
Twenty-eighth session
Agenda item 2
Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

Written statement* submitted by the Federacion de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[13 February 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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1502881

Please recycle

Human Rights Situation in Western Sahara

Saharawi political prisoners, who are still imprisoned in the local prison of the Moroccan city of Salé since 2010-2011, are serving very hard sentences ranging between 20 years to life imprisonment. This unbearable harsh verdict stems from the fact that they all have been Human Rights activists who participated in the biggest peaceful protest ever, which was held in the outskirts of Laayoune, known as the Gdeim Izik camp, in October 2010. In this protest camp, more than 20.000 Saharawi people decided to leave the city in protest of their intolerable socio-economic situation.

After one month of protest, this camp was brutally dismantled, with a lot of causalities among civilians.
The group of 21 Saharawi political prisoners are civilians tried in a military court. Right now, they just finished serving five years in prison, and still have many years to come to serve for some of them, according to their sentences, despite the recognition and the reporting of the International Community that it was an illegal trial which did proceeded without presentation of any evidence, and was only based on confessions extracted under extreme torture.

These torture cases were reported to the Committee against Torture, and include: techniques of suffocation, electrocution, rape with objects like broken bottles and chair legs, cigarette burns, forced extension of the male members, intake of urine and faeces, burns and poisoning with chemical products and pulling out nails and so on. These cases of torture resulted in permanent scars which were exhibited by the prisoners in the court and witnessed by more than 40 international observers. Despite the calls of the prisoners to the judge to investigate their claims, the latter denied any medical expertise. The Moroccan parliament itself passed a law in August 2014 outlawing this trial, which meant that either the political prisoners would be released or moved to a new process in civil court. This was not done and the process in the parliament is still waiting for ratification from the Higher Chamber.

The situation in the prisons where Saharawi political prisoners are held, have not improved. The ill treatments continue on a daily basis against them. Medical assistance is denied to most of them and when they receive some kind of medical attention, it is inadequate, insufficient, and in some cases, the medicines that they receive are completely unrelated to the illnesses they have.

Overmedication cases are also omnipresent, and one good example can be found in the case of a prisoner who received 18 different types of medicine, among them, 3 different antibiotics with major side effects. When some kind of blood tests, x-rays or other analyses are made, the results are not given to the prisoner, or to his family or lawyer. The abusive use of x-rays is also very common.
Mr. Sidi Abdejalil Laaroussi, a political prisoner in the prison Sale 1, near Rabat, needs urgent medical attention.

Prisoners' names and number of children:

Life imprisonment:

- Mohamed Bani: 3 daughters and 3 sons
- Abdallah Abahah: none
- Mohamed Elbachir Boutengiza: none
- Abdeljelil Laarousi: 2 sons
- Brahim Elismaaili: 2 sons and 2 daughters
- Sid Ahmed Lemjyid: none
- Abdallah Lakhfauni: none
- Ahmed Asbai: none

30 years sentence:

- Cheikh Banga: none
- Naame Asfari: none
- Hassana Dah: none
- Mohamed Burial: 2 sons

25 years sentence:

- Abdallah Atoubali – none
- Mohamed Embarek Lefkir – none
- Mohamed Lamin Heddi – none
- Mohamed Khouna Babait - a daughter
- Elhoussen Azaui - 3 daughters
- Adeich Addafi – none
- Bakay El Arabi – 2 daughters

The International Community has to intervene in order to put an end to the violations committed by Morocco's criminal law that is applied on the Western Sahara inhabitants.

The international conventions signed by Morocco, such as the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1966), the International Agreements on Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966), the Agreement for the Prevention and Sanction of the Crime of Genocide and Crime of Tortures (rectified by Morocco in1950) are totally ignored and violated by Morocco.
The Saharawi political prisoners of the Gdeim Izik Group have to be freed at once. Their trial was null and void in the eyes of International Law as they have been subjected to all forms of psychological and physical abuses.

This situation is caused because of the lack of the political will, and because of the non-implementation of the Resolutions of the UN that calls for the right of self-determination of the Saharawi People.

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Human Rights Council
Twenty-eighth session
Agenda item 2
Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

Written statement* submitted by the Federacion de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promocion de los Derechos Humanos, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[13 February 2015]

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Please recycle

Right to Non-Discrimination in Western Sahara

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, age, language, religion, political or other opinion, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or social origin, property, birth or other status which has the purpose of preventing the enjoyment, in equal conditions, of all rights, freedoms and guarantees recognized in human rights international treaties: Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 7) and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 26).

Western Sahara conflict shows how the Saharawi people in **the Non-Self-Governing Territory are the main victims of discrimination**, for example in relation with "*development*" projects carried on without their free, prior and informed consent.

In the case of oil exploratory drillings authorized by Morocco in Western Sahara waters, the principle of "*permanent sovereignty over natural resources*" it's being violated, understood as the right of peoples to manage and use natural resources in their territories and dispose of them in the interest of development and common welfare, established by the General Assembly in its Resolution 1803 (XVII), of 13 December 1962, and later confirmed by the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and in the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights one -both ratified by the Kingdom of Morocco- as well as the subsequent Resolutions of the General Assembly, especially its Resolutions 3201 of 1 May 1974, entitled "*Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order*", and Resolution 3281 (XXIX), of 12 December 1974, which contained the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States.

In November 2001 the President of the Security Council requested the Under Secretary General for Legal Affairs, Hans Corell, on behalf of the members of the Council a report about "*the legality in the context of International Law, including relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations, and agreements concerning Western Sahara of actions allegedly taken by Moroccan authorities consisting in the offering and signing of contracts with foreign companies for the exploration of mineral resources in Western Sahara*".

On the basis of these documents, Hans Corell stated that **"...if further exploration and exploitation activities were to proceed in disregard of the interests and wishes of the people of Western Sahara, they would be in violation of the international law principles applicable to mineral resource activities in Non-Self-Governing Territories**".

The increase in inequality and political, economic and social exclusion of Saharawi people undermine their dignity and rights, and are a cause of concern that can lead to riots and conflicts with the non-indigenous population moved from Morocco.

In the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Western Sahara is urgent, **as an early warning measure**, to strength international human rights mechanisms, promote equality, fight against discrimination and combat impunity.

It is a known fact, that in the root cause of conflicts we can frequently find a profound violation of economic, civil, cultural, political and social rights. Once again, we call on the Council to intensify the system-wide efforts to **combat discrimination and promote human rights of Saharawi population in the Non-Self-Governing Territory of Western Sahara**, as a human rights imperative and an important aspect of conflicts prevention.

In conclusion, we are aware that protection of human rights, pursuit of justice for the victims and the fight against impunity, must go beyond the underlying legal and political problem. In **Western Sahara**, as it happens in so many parts of our world, there can be no peace or a viable political agreement without paying attention to human rights and reparation for the victims.

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Human Rights Council
Twenty-eighth session
Agenda item 4
Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain Inc., a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[13 February 2015]

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Please recycle

Human Rights Abuses in the Kingdom of Bahrain

On the occasion of the 28th session of the Human Rights Council, Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain, the Bahrain Center for Human Rights, and the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy would like to commemorate the anniversary of the February 14 uprising in the Kingdom of Bahrain. Since the government's violent suppression of the peaceful movement, the status of human rights in Bahrain has steadily deteriorated.

Human rights abuses directly attributable to the government continue in the small island kingdom, and ADHRB, BIRD, and BCHR receive daily reports of fresh abuses committed by government security forces. The use of torture remains systemic, while the government continues to campaign against the freedoms of speech, opinion, and assembly by targeting peaceful dissenters and political activists for enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention, and in some cases extrajudicial killing. Recently, the government extended its use of violence to women, incarcerating 13 female political activists for their role in a peaceful call for self-determination. Additionally, since March 2011, the government has employed the use of force against child dissenters; ADHRB and BCHR have together documented over 40 cases of child political prisoners in 2014 alone.

The government has recently begun employing the death sentence against potential political dissidents. While the death sentence enjoyed a brief respite in the years following the enactment of Bahrain's national constitution, Bahraini courts have recently revived the practice. Substantial evidential concerns mar convictions resulting in death sentences, with one death row inmate claiming that government security officers tortured him in order to extract the confession that ultimately proved conclusive in his conviction. The same inmate claims that security officers told him that they were aware of his innocence, but that he deserved to die for being disloyal to the Bahraini government. To the best of our knowledge, the government has not investigated the inmate's credible allegations as required by the Convention against Torture.

Far from improving its human rights record, recent government action has only contributed to an increasingly unstable situation. In December 2014, the Government of Bahrain arrested Shaikh Ali Salman, the leader of the peaceful Bahraini opposition party al-Wefaq. The government accused Shaikh Salman of miscellaneous crimes relating to his internationally-guaranteed right to the freedom of expression. His incarceration has contributed to a growing sense of frustration and desperation amongst the Bahraini people.

However, Shaikh Salman is neither the first nor the last person punished by the Government of Bahrain for voicing his dissent. In February, Sayed Ahmed al-Wadaei, the Director of Advocacy of the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy in London, joined a host of other peaceful political activists rendered stateless by the Government of Bahrain as punishment for their dissent. The list additionally includes Husain Abdulla, the Executive Director of Americans for Democracy & Human Rights in Bahrain, who was stripped of his citizenship by the government in 2012. Since then, the government has made a policy of denaturalizing its most vocal dissenters, thereby violating international peremptory norms concerning statelessness.

The Government of Bahrain has additionally chosen to retaliate against citizens voicing their dissent at the Human Rights Council. In October 2014, government security forces arrested Nabeel Rajab after he returned from an advocacy tour including participation in the 27th Session of the Council. The government charged Rajab with denigrating government institutions in relation to tweets that he published while abroad. In January, a Bahraini court convicted him on these charges, sentencing him to six months in prison. His appeal remains ongoing.

The government has attempted to obfuscate its downward human rights trajectory by creating government institutions ostensibly tasked with implementing reform. In late 2013, the Government of Bahrain created the Office of the Ombudsman of the Ministry of Interior, and in mid-2014 renewed and amended the mandate for a previously-existing National Institute of Human Rights. However, these institutions have thus far been ineffective in establishing implementation of human rights norms. Torture and arbitrary detention continue in Bahrain's prisons, while security forces continue to disappear political activists. Additionally, neither institution maintains significant independence from

the government, as both organizations are still staffed by the king. Further, many persons within the organization, including the Secretary-General of the Ombudsman, have previously worked for the Ministry of Interior and Office of the Public Prosecution.

In attempting to engage with both institutions, ADHRB found that the Office of the Ombudsman disingenuously engages its complaint process, closing investigations of allegations of enforced disappearance when a victim appears without actually investigating the circumstances that led to the disappearance in the first place. The Ombudsman additionally often ignores or otherwise fails to investigate allegations of torture and arbitrary detention. Additionally, while the National Institute of Human Rights published a welcome report in late 2014, its failure to gain accreditation under the Paris Principles underscores its inability to affect real change in the country.

The international community has largely taken note of Bahrain's regression on the subject of human rights. At the 26th Session of the Human Rights Council, 47 states signed a joint statement holding Bahrain to task for its human rights record. This statement, the fourth of its kind issued in Geneva since 2011, joined three statements from the European Union and multiple statements from UN bodies calling for Bahrain to honor its international commitments towards human rights. Additionally, UN Member States individually made 176 recommendations for the Government of Bahrain in its second-cycle of its Universal Periodic Review in 2012. Thus far, the Government of Bahrain has not substantially responded to any of these calls or recommendations.

At the 28th Session of the Human Rights Council, ADHRB, BIRD, and BCHR call upon the Member States of the United Nations to renew their calls for the promotion and respect of human rights in Bahrain. We specifically ask the international community to:

- Demand that the government of Bahrain release all political prisoners, and drop all charges and vacate any sentences relating to political action, including those of Nabeel Rajab and Shaikh Ali Salman;

- Conduct independent investigations into the systemic human rights abuses in Bahrain, including those relating to the use of torture, enforced disappearance, and arbitrary detention;

- Call on the Office of the Ombudsman of the Ministry of Interior and the Bahrain National Institute for Human Rights to fully and genuinely engage their mandates and implement human rights reform in the country; and

- Consider issuing a Human Rights Council resolution condemning Bahrain's human rights abuses at the 29th Session of the Human Rights Council.

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Human Rights Council
Twenty-eighth session
Agenda item 3
Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by Alsalam Foundation, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[13 February 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Please recycle

Arbitrary Detention of Waleed Abu al-Khair in Saudi Arabia

Peaceful activist and human rights lawyer Waleed Abu al-Khair has borne the brunt of the Saudi governments renewed fight against terrorism. On 13 January 2015, an appellate court ruled that Mr. Abu al-Khair must serve the remainder of a 15-year prison sentence, denying him any opportunity for parole after he refused to apologize for his prior activism.[1]

Before his imprisonment, Mr. Abu al-Khair founded and directed the Monitor of Human Rights in Saudi Arabia (MHRSA). In addition to his human rights advocacy, Abu al-Khair's legal practice brought him into direct conflict with Saudi authorities as he sought to protect defendants suffering the curtailment of their basic freedoms. He previously represented, among others, the blogger Raif Badawi, who received a sentence of ten years in prison, 1,000 lashes, and a one-million riyal fine for "insulting Islam" by creating an online forum for social debate.[2]

Officials first brought charges against Mr. Abu al-Khair in 2013. After the criminal court levied a light sentence against him,[3] he was charged by the Specialized Criminal Court,[4] the tribunal responsible for processing terrorism-related cases. On 6 July 2014, the Specialized Criminal Court in Jeddah invoked recently-enacted anti-terrorism legislation to convict him of "publicly slandering the judiciary," "founding an unlicensed organization," and "making international organizations hostile to the kingdom."[5] He was sentenced to 15 years in prison (initially with an opportunity for parole), a 15 year travel ban, and a fine equivalent to $53,000.

We, the undersigned human rights organizations, call on the Human Rights Council to engage the Government of Saudi Arabia to:

- Release Waleed Abu al-Khair from prison and vacate all charges against him;
- Revoke his travel ban and rescind his fine;
- Reform anti-terrorism legislation so that it cannot be used to threaten the liberty of human rights defenders; and
- Offer stronger guarantees that the Saudi Ministry of Interior will not unduly interfere with legitimate civil society organizations..

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[1] http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/01/13/us-saudi-court-rights-idUSKBN0KM0SX20150113
[2] http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/thousand-lashes-and-10-years-prison-online-saudi-arabian-activist-2014-05-07
[3] https://frontlinedefenders.org/node/24109
[4] http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/saudi-arabia-waleed-abu-al-khair-2014-04-16
[5] http://www.hrw.org/news/2014/07/07/saudi-arabia-15-year-sentence-prominent-activist